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## Biosolids program salmon-friendly

The King County Department of Natural Resources today announced that the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) has reviewed the county's biosolids program and found that it complies with the Endangered Species Act in relation to Puget Sound chinook salmon. Biosolids are the treated, nutrient-rich organic solids removed during the municipal wastewater treatment process, used as a fertilizer throughout the region.

"This gives us new assurances our biosolids program is salmon-friendly and will continue to be an asset as we work to protect and restore the environment," says King County Executive Ron Sims "The biosolids program recycles a valuable resource and has always met a high standard. Having it pass review for protection of salmon is outstanding news!"

Years of research and operational experience have demonstrated that biosolids can be beneficially recycled. King County biosolids are used to enhance Weyerhaeuser and State DNR forest lands in King County and crops such as dryland wheat and hops in Eastern Washington. Composted biosolids are used to reclaim abandoned logging roads in the Mountains to Sound Greenway to help reduce erosion and improve habitat.

The chinook salmon are currently listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, and any activity that might jeopardize the salmon is under careful scrutiny. This review by NMFS indicates the program, operated by the county which follows procedures that exceed state regulations, poses no risk to chinook salmon.

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